

FPC – Session Meeting Highlights – December 12, 2023

- Peter Kelley led the opening devotion and prayer.
- Jan Falkowski gave the Treasurer’s Report. **There will be a shortfall of about \$15,000 in contributions for 2023.** We will need to withdraw more than our target amount from the endowment in order to support the Church’s mission and ministry. SALT received donations of \$1,050, which will be used to cover expenses for the program.
- Jan reported that there were signs of attempted entry through a window in the CE wing, and some odd activity seen in the parking lot on the cemetery security cameras. The police were called, and will conduct additional patrols.
- Peter thanked the Session for the surprise celebration for his 25th anniversary, as well as for the farewell for the Mraz family. He reported that the **Winter Retreat at Holmes is scheduled for February 2-4.**
- Joan Mathie was the representative from the Deacons. They sent letters with gift cards and bookmarks to college students and those in the military. They asked for bakers and helpers for the Cookie Walk on 12/17. Deacons Doug MacArthur and Doug Corrigan spoke in worship to let members know what the Deacons have been doing. And **FPC will participate in WinterFest on February 17, 2024.**
- For Buildings & Grounds, Dave Collins reported that there are no major projects currently underway. Kolb inspected the heating system and said it’s in good shape. Upgrades to the playground are continuing. Paul Geiger reported that Doug MacArthur is finishing small projects in the Manse, including childproofing the kitchen and installing safety gates on the stairs. Kathy Geiger is working on a guide for the care and upkeep of the Manse, to be used by the Stepping Stones residents.
- Mark Bridgen reported that the Cemetery Committee is looking for a new security company. There was an altercation between three people in the cemetery, after which the committee discovered their security system had not been working since May. Lighthouse Security had not informed them of the issues.
- Sue Russell reported that Faith Formation is in transition, with Mary Mraz departing on December 14.
- There will be an **Inquirer’s series on two Sundays: January 14 and 21 after worship.** Elders are encouraged to attend. There will be a Potluck Supper to welcome new members on Friday, January 26.

- Stew Ross reported that the Battermans have joined the rotation as a Fellowship team. The committee is looking to plan a Family Game Night, perhaps in February or March.
- **The Stepping Stones team is working with C.A.S.T. to identify two or three families to fill out an application.** The committee will use those applications to identify a family or families to interview. Cathy Demeroto said that C.A.S.T. has been very busy with holiday programs, but will work on it.
- **The Eagle's Wings program is in search of a coordinator to help arrange rides to medical appointments.** We need someone to connect requests with drivers. This can be done at home and on your schedule. Please call the Church office if you're interested in serving with this ministry.
- Sue Russell reported for the Personnel Committee. Jan is working on a job description for her new position, which includes Faith Formation and Congregational Communication responsibilities. The committee is conducting a search for a new part-time bookkeeper to handle invoices, payroll and monthly reports. **Ann Romeo continues to offer considerable help with pledge records, bank reconciliations, deposits and audit materials – all on a volunteer basis.**
- The Nominating Committee will begin its work shortly, led by Sue Russell. **The Annual Meeting will be on February 11 after worship.**
- Ralph Edwards reported that 58 pledges totaling \$157,000 had been received so far, but it is too early in the pledge drive to know where we are relative to our target. Before Covid, the church received about 90 pledges. Last year, we received 74 pledges, totaling \$208,000. More people are viewing worship online, and they tend to give but not return their estimate of giving cards.
- Jay Batterman reported for the Worship Committee. Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas went well, with several people attending to help and enjoy lunch together. There will be two services on Christmas Eve: a 10 am worship service and a family candlelight service at 4pm. **More people are needed to livestream worship. Please reach out to the Church office if you'd like to learn how to participate in this important ministry.**
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer from Sue Russell.